

Please note, the following notes were typed up directly from the flip chart notes taken at the meeting. City staff are currently working to identify consistent concerns and common themes, which will be posted separately.

Table 1

Session 1 9:30 - 10:30

Participants: 4 Residents, 3 people who work here, plus others.

Question: What makes your neighborhood the place you've chosen to work, live, or shop? *Follow up:* What would make it better? What types of housing opportunities does your neighborhood have now?

Question: What type of housing opportunities would you like to see it have in the future? *Follow up:* As the community grows, changing housing costs could potentially affect some residents—where and for whom do you see the greatest potential challenge?

- Affordable housing, diversity
- Supportive community
- 15-year resident
- People from different parts of world
- Clean, affordable, good access to transportation
- Diverse cultural background
- Maintain cultural community cohesiveness & have cultural diversity
- Close to Community Center
- Mix of housing types: single-family and multi-family, rental and ownership
- Mix of long-term & new residents
- Problem: City views as blighted neighborhood – this has impacts
 - Show more respect
 - Appreciate & value assets ·build on strengths vs tear down and build new
- Better, safer buildings
- Affordable utilities – increase energy eff.
- Cultural diversity in building ownership
- Safer playgrounds and community centers
- Centers where cultures can mix AND practice their own cultures
- Good: Currently have a mix of housing
- At least keep amt of affordable rentals and ownership
- Keep SF as part of mix
- Latino community misses the African American Community – where have you gone?
- Too Dense
- Auto Speed on arterials
- Would like diverse Housing types & ownership & affordable

Question: What unique character of your commercial district gives it its identity and what would you like to see preserved? *Follow up:* What types of goods, services and employment would you like to see near the transit stations, in your local business districts and accessible to the community?

- Locally owned businesses

- *****Cultural Diversity of businesses**
- Business that serve diverse cultures & Americans
- Would like to be able to utilize skills from their homes countries for employment here (ie training to translate those skills to this work environment)
- Would like a wider range of goods (clothing, shoes, movies – ie where to buy kids shoes)
- Would like an affordable, safe, clean, supermarket
- Increase public safety
 - increase youth training
 - crime prevention training
- More youth activities
- Increase public transportation as population grows
- Can't have everything at each Light Rail Station, so let's coordinate different things offered at each Light Rail station
- Maintain affordable commercial space
- Want to feel safe to be out at night – make safe for kids (traffic & trains - especially at Franklin High School)
- Crime prevention
- Create new jobs, including City jobs, to employ local residents
- Affordable Community Center Rentals
- Stronger Schools – more High Schools so Kids can stay in community
- Culturally appropriate safety signage for Light Rail

Question: How do you use the parks and community centers in your neighborhood or nearby today (exercise, take children to play, relax, informal gathering)? If you don't go to city parks, now, what change would make you want to use the parks more?

- Othello Park
 - City has removed benches & trash cans – would like them replaced
 - Restrooms need to be cleaner & safer (gender separation needs improved)
 - Recreational programs need to be improved
- Goes to Rainier Beach Library, but not New Holly CC.
- Would like staff at Community Centers that speak other languages/ make others feel more welcome
- Would like bigger gym/workout room – Longer hours

Table 1, Session 2 10:30 – 11:30

Participants: 1 Residents, 4 people who work here, plus others.

Question: What makes your neighborhood the place you've chosen to work, live, or shop? *Follow up:* What would make it better? What types of housing opportunities does your neighborhood have now?

- Affordable. diversity
- Good public transit access
- Working to support youth and build community

Question: What unique character of your commercial district gives it its identity and what would you like to see preserved? *Follow up:* What types of goods, services and employment would you like to see near the transit stations, in your local business districts and accessible to the community?

- Less youth violence
- *****Good clean Grocery Store**
- More employment opportunities for youth and young adults
- Daycare
- More pedestrian friendly commercial centers
- Less vacant lots
- More informal gathering places – need to be safe
- Better pedestrian environment on MLK (sidewalks, pedestrian crossings)
- Community Identity
 - Diversity of community and businesses
 - Locally-owned businesses
 - Need programs to support these characteristics so not displaced
- Need affordable commercial spaces
- Technical assistance for existing & new businesses to succeed.
 - Business training for immigrants to understand cultural differences of businesses here
 - Hire members of these communities to provide training
 - trusted advocate model to reach communities
- R.V. to be center for Green movement: Jobs, business, technology for local people
 - Community College/training in Rainier Valley to include “Green Job” focus
 - Bring in green business/hire local
 - make sure policies support this
 - Support grass root programs trying to make this happen

Question: What type of housing opportunities would you like to see it have in the future? *Follow up:* As the community grows, changing housing costs could potentially affect some residents—where and for whom do you see the greatest potential challenge?

- Maintain range of housing: in affordability; type; tenure
- Maintain Affordable housing
- Maintain /support exist SF
- Develop underdeveloped sites w/high density
- Possible housing programs: transitional housing; lease to own
- Provide a way to move from rent to own
- Socio-econometric Sustainability
- Challenge: rising housing costs.
 - Immigrant populations
 - Low income, min wage worker

What would you like to see?

- Increase service sector business or make more visible (accts, attorney)
- Pharmacy

- Grocery Store
- Make existing businesses more visible. Build community around them, concentrating them pedestrian friendly
- Businesses accessibility/visible to multi cultures
- More youth programs that keep youth together
- Places for youth to hang out
- Get community involved with youth activities & Alt Schools
- Programs for high risk youth
- Informal gathering places where they can interact with their culture as well as others
- Improve Public Safety
- More Programs/jobs for youth including city jobs
- Improve East/West connection
- More parks programming for range of age groups & cultures other than B ball and tennis
- More density to support more housing options & retail
- Super market /Pharmacy/Fred Meyers
- Business/ job training for immigrants as they enter our economy
- "Green jobs", technology, business
- Places for youth to "hang out"
- Greater involvement w/youth
- Programs for high risk youth
- Make commercial ventures accessible to all groups
- Improve public transit
- Less vacant land

Table 1 Emerging issues "Like / need"

- Affordable housing
- Diversity of Housing
 1. Density
 2. Ownership
 3. Cost
- Cultural Diversity
- Cultural diversity of commercial district
 1. Small independent
- Chief Sealth Trail & community gardens

Table 2

Session 1 9:30 - 10:30

Question: What makes your neighborhood the place you've chosen to work, live, or shop? *Follow up:* What would make it better? What types of housing opportunities does your neighborhood have now?

- Unique shops, independent small businesses.
- Ability to walk to station from home this year.

- Farmers Market May-October
- Community Garden – vegetables that you can't get at market or stores
- P-Patch under Power line – Chief Sealth Corridor
- Housing still affordable – like diversity of neighborhood
- Public safety – has improved/could still be better. Need strong outreach to new residents of SE Seattle.

Question: What other Housing Choices would you like to see in the future?

- More opportunities for smaller scales housing 900sf vs 2400sf
 - Cottages
- Find a way to create density that's affordable but livable/desirable
- Worried about undesirable massing
- Provide choices in sizes for businesses
- Also need residential development for larger families
 - 2-3 bedrooms (many larger families in SE Seattle.)
- Need a complete range of housing types/sizes for choice
- Good Choices for Rent/Buy
- Encourage Live/Work Units
 - Adjust regulations to allow live/work units
- Find opportunities for Artist Housing
- Wider variety of Quality/Aesthetics in Housing Design to avoid cookie cutter look.
- Design Guidelines
 - Need an education process for community
 - Meetings so people understand Design Guidelines purpose and function
- Detached Accessory Dwelling Units
- Preserve Existing Housing Stock

Question: How do you use the parks and community centers in your neighborhood or nearby today (exercise, take children to play, relax, informal gathering)? If you don't go to city parks, now, what change would make you want to use the parks more?

- W. On Myrtle Street
 - Chief Sealth Trail
 - Gravel Paths should be paved to provide better connections to Othello Station Area
- Parks Safety
 - Better Facilities for kids of all ages
 - Improve Park design for safety and appropriate to age groups
- Neighborhood Identity through Green Space/Pocket Parks, rather than or in addition to Architectural Character.
 - This neighborhood might be defined more by green spaces rather than buildings
- Complete portion of Chief Sealth Trail between Myrtle & Webster.
 - Great Route to retail/grocery by bike
- Parks should also serve as Town Square Community meeting space
 - Town Square space would be desirable

Othello Neighborhood Plan Update Workshop, March 14 2009

Notes from Group 1, Creating Choices for Living, Working and Recreating

- A wider range of City Departments should work together to develop parks and open space (not just the parks department).
- Triangle Parks
- Make sure we develop strong East/West Connections beyond neighborhood boundary.
 - Better connections to Lake Washington
- Activate existing Parks
 - Especially for kids
 - Programming on weekends for example
 - Also add more options for sports activities in Park. Not just Basketball, also tennis, soccer and others.
- Signalize intersection of Chief Sealth at Myrtle.
- More Tree Canopy

Table2, Session 2 10:30 – 11:30

Question: What makes your neighborhood the place you've chosen to work, live, or shop? *Follow up:* What would make it better? What types of housing opportunities does your neighborhood have now?

- Unique Neighborhood with many small independent businesses. Not much chains
- Shopping area not concentrated, long-sprawling. Would like it to be more concentrated.
- Big Shopping Mall Here! Add some bigger Stores.
- Security/Safe around Light Rail Stations
- School – English as a second language school desired in this neighborhood. To serve many different immigrant groups.
- Bought home here because it is close to so many things
 - Schools
 - Churches
 - Ethnic stores
 - Airport
 - Downtown, etc.

Question: What type of housing opportunities would you like to see it have in the future? *Follow up:* As the community grows, changing housing costs could potentially affect some residents—where and for whom do you see the greatest potential challenge?

- New Buildings/Development should not push out existing houses.
- Can't imagine high-rises here
- Maybe larger buildings like townhouses and some flats but not towers
- Keep/Expand opportunities for people to rent out part of their home or ADU
- Mother-In-Law Apartments Good!
- Make codes easier to develop Live/Work Units

Question: What unique character of your commercial district gives it its identity and what would you like to see preserved? *Follow up:* What types of goods, services and employment would you like to see near the transit stations, in your local business districts and accessible to the community?

- Want more destination shopping. So you don't have to go to South Center

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Notes from Group 1, Creating Choices for Living, Working and Recreating

- Improve look/aesthetic/storage areas in shopping areas
- Maintenance Program/Work with Business owners
- Unique/Ethnic/Cultural Businesses are important to our identity.
- Unique stores/Culture can draw people from other parts of the city to this neighborhood
- Best part of neighborhood is the diverse mix of people you see and meet
- Need more East African Restaurants/Stores

Question: How do you use the parks and community centers in your neighborhood or nearby today (exercise, take children to play, relax, informal gathering)? If you don't go to city parks, now, what change would make you want to use the parks more?

- Improve Van Asselt Soccer Field
- Improve existing Park (Othello Park?) East of MLK
- Improve Basketball Courts/Soccer Fields
- Lighting of Basketball courts
- Need Badmitten Courts – Popular among different cultures/age groups
- We need places that are not necessarily big. Smaller areas/town squares /close to homes.
Places for people to gather
- Plazas
- Cultural
- More places for children's activities, elderly Activities, Tai Chi especially in Summer (All in this Neighborhood)
- Security is a big issue. We need more people in our open spaces. Make existing spaces work better (Not necessarily more parks/o.s)
- Play areas tot-lots for 0-8 years
- A new skate park desired
- Make better East-West Connections
- Make better connections to Seward Park
- Beacon Avenue Median Trial
- Can we do something similar along MLK?
- Wider sidewalks

Table2, Session 3 11:30 – 12:30

Question: What makes your neighborhood the place you've chosen to work, live, or shop? *Follow up:* What would make it better? What types of housing opportunities does your neighborhood have now?

- Low density. People should live close to ground
- Value diversity
- Not enough housing diversity of building and ownership/rental option
- Need more housing choices, especially close to station
- Need condo options closer to station
- More density to support services especially retail in neighborhood
- Need real full-service grocery store in neighborhood
- Choose to live here because it is an affordable place to live. Need a variety of incomes
- Need transitional zoning. From density to single family neighborhoods

- Yards/Private Gardens are very important for quality of life and good neighbor relationships.
- Small community parks and open spaces help connect people to each other socially

Question: What type of housing opportunities would you like to see it have in the future? *Follow up:* As the community grows, changing housing costs could potentially affect some residents—where and for whom do you see the greatest potential challenge?

- Need more housing options/types/ownership structures
- Design is very important in influencing how people can or cannot meet each other
- Need design that fosters community

Question: What unique character of your commercial district gives it its identity and what would you like to see preserved? *Follow up:* What types of goods, services and employment would you like to see near the transit stations, in your local business districts and accessible to the community?

- Need people, lot of people within walking distance to make businesses successful
- We need to create a “new” unique identity for this community/commercial district. Something different from International District. An identity so that we can market ourselves as a place that draws people in from other parts of the city/region.
- What sets this Commercial District Neighborhood apart? Should it be a regional draw?
- We may need additional parking. But concentrated it in one location
 - Parking for small businesses in neighborhood
- Curious what SE Retail Study will reveal
- Preserve existing customer base as best we can
- Festivals/Food Fes/Events that celebrate commercial district at time the Rail Stations open.
- Can it be a tourist destination?
- Targeted parking garages or other facilities to electric vehicles and alternative transportation types
 - Carbon Neutral
- Places/Facilities for micro/industrial small (very small) manufacturing shops
- Repair a useful part of commercial district
- Include/encourage green industry in this neighborhood area and Beacon Hill
- Norfolk Business Park
- A potential place to employ people from this neighborhood (take train there) also an opportunity to implement green industry.
- Have picnic spaces on top of grass covered hills along Chief Sealth and other similar places.
- Youth employment/training programs to work maintain parks
- Need better connection between parks, also improve East-West connections to Georgetown and to Seward Park
- Othello Park at center of it all
- Improve safety of Chief Sealth Trail
- Create small breakout spaces for cheap/unique retail/food (taco truck, coffee) in parks and plazas.
- Create a place for Othello Farmers Market
- Public Safety!!! In all public spaces. Need to reduce crime in SE Seattle

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Notes from Group 1, Creating Choices for Living, Working and Recreating

- Bicycle Police Patrol
- Kids involved in various efforts to maintain parks and improve safety throughout neighborhood.